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ELECTRIC BREEZE CAN BE HOUSEHOLD HELPER

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There are far more ways of using an electric fan than were dreamed of when the first one appeared back in 1830. In fact, it is only very recently that homemakers have begun to discover the variety of ways in which electric fans can help to make several household tasks easier, as well as to bring greater comfort into the home in hot weather. Fans can be used to cleanse the air in the house, to prevent mustiness in closets and basements, to dry clothes faster - and they even have several special uses in the care of food.

Electric fans can keep the house free of the smell of tobacco, food, paint, smoke or other fumes. A fan is a real essential for kitchen comfort, because it will keep the room cool during cooking, and also will force out food odors before they spread through the house. For best performance, a built-in kitchen fan should be located above the range, near the top of the wall or in the ceiling. A kitchen window panel fan works most efficiently in the upper sash. However, a portable electric fan can be used to ventilate the kitchen. It should be placed facing the window, with the kitchen range in between. If the fan is on a table top or counter in the kitchen, the lower sash should be raised; if on a bracket, open the upper sash. Naturally, special care should be taken in locating a portable fan in the kitchen so that it will not be a safety hazard.

The breeze from an electric fan can help in defrosting frozen foods as well as in cooling hot foods. When it's necessary to put cooked meats, puddings or other foods into the refrigerator quickly, the fan will cool them to a point where they won't send the temperature of the refrigerator up unduly. It will cool freshly baked pie shells in a hurry too. And when it comes to defrosting frozen foods, moving air from an electric fan will do this job in about half the time required with still air at room temperature. An electric fan also will give material help in the job of defrosting the freezer itself.

Closets and basements need special attention occasionally in order to prevent the mustiness that often results from dampness or from unpleasant odors. A closet may be ventilated by placing a fan on the floor in the doorway, facing inward. Thus fresh air will be pulled inward and stale air forced out at the top. If the closet has a window, this should be opened at the same time and the fan will pull fresh air in from outdoors.

The air in a basement can be freshened by placing the fan a few feet from an open window and facing it. If the window is high, the fan might be placed on a stepladder so that it will be the same height as the window. (But for safety's sake be sure to tie or tape the fan securely so it will not fall off.) If another window is left open, circulating air entering through this one will help to dry out any dampness in walls or floor. All doors and windows, except the inlet and outlet windows, should be closed. It is especially important to change the air in a basement after a period of rainy or humid weather.

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An electric fan is of special value for use in drying laundry indoors. Clothes will dry much more quickly, and the fast drying in a cool breeze will help to preserve rayon and nylon fabrics. Also, this rapid drying may be of some help in keeping white linens and laces from turning yellow, and in preventing the fading of colored cottons.

For most efficient drying, place the fan at one end of the clothes-line so that the breeze will strike the edges of the clothes. It is well to have the fan at about the same height as the clothes, adjusted to low speed, and oscillating, if possible. If clothes are hung on a revolving rack, however, place the fan at right angles, about three feet away from the nearest article. Then, by adjusting the fan to the stationary position, the rack will be kept moving.

Realization of their many practical uses will probably make most homemakers feel that an electric fan would be a convenience in just about every room in the house.

